

**FREDERICK COUNTY COMMISSION ON AGING MINUTES
DEPARTMENT OF AGING
May 12, 2014**

COA MEMBERS	DOA STAFF	EXCUSED	UNEXCUSED	GUESTS
Elizabeth Chung	Sue Ramsburg	Dan Yeeles		Rae Ann Butler
Don Cilla	Pat Rosensteel			Carol Krimm
Ernell Graham	Carolyn True			Judith Levy
David Gray, Comm				Judy Welles
Ann Holiday				Odile Brunetto
Louise Lynch				
Randy McClement, Mayor				
Katie Rhinehart				
Virginia Skelley				

- I. **Call to Order** – Louise Lynch called the meeting to order at 1:00pm.
- II. **Welcome & Introductions** – Louise welcomed all attendees.
Introductions were done around the table.
- III. **Action on the Agenda** – There are no additions to the agenda.
- IV. **Public Comment** – No public comment.

V. **Approval of Minutes** – The minutes of the March 10 and April 14, 2014 meetings were approved with no revisions. All were in favor.

VI. **Commissioner's Report** – Commissioner Gray stated that the Needs Assessment study has generated some discussion, but there has been no specific senior related action by the County other than the sale of the management of Montevue and Citizens. The Frederick City Planning Commission will be hearing arguments from the County and concerned citizens tonight at 6pm regarding this issue. There will be more court action in the future. The majority of the BoCC would like to have it settled before the new government takes place.

There will be a presentation at Thurmont Library at 6pm which will explain the new Charter government.

Mayor's Report – Mayor Randy McClement stated that things have been quiet at the City of Frederick. Preparation of the next budget is their current focus.

VII. **Review of proposed candidate questions – Louise Lynch** The question has been finalized for presentation to the candidates. Louise distributed a copy of the proposed question. If members of the Commission approve, Louise will distribute to appropriate entities. All members present approved the question as written.

Presentation by Judith Wells, former chairperson of the Montgomery County Commission on Aging about the "Communities for a Lifetime" initiative – Judy Welles, Odile Brunetto, Judith Levy - Louise introduced Judy and gave a brief bio of her accomplishments. Judy is here today to talk about the successful implementation of the "Communities for a Lifetime" initiative in Montgomery County. Charles County and Mt St Mary's County have adapted similar initiatives. The Commission on Aging in Montgomery County has 28 members and they meet formally nine times a year. They use the summer months to do studies and research. The process was started by holding a working summit with three hundred attendees. Issues were identified during this summit. Ike Leggett, the County Executive, organized a senior issue cabinet with an appointed top person to meet regularly to discuss senior issues. Many of the issues discovered are similar to senior issues nationally. Judy distributed a vision statement brochure. This brochure was distributed to individuals in the county who may be interested in supporting the concept. The process was slow because initially there was no funding available for any proposals. Ultimately the County Executive endorsed the agenda. The County Council also passed the agenda in December 2012. This is a long range

plan and won't happen overnight. Judy presented a brief overview of the brochure. This is a process and will need support from outside the CoA. Each county may have a different agenda. Judy presented the steps to implement a "Community for a Lifetime".

Judy Levy is the current Chairperson of the CoA and is continuing the mission. Currently the CoA is supporting caregiving and caregivers. This initiative is a result of a summer study. The CoA would like to have and is currently supporting a Caregiver Coalition. They are also supporting other proposals which include increased reimbursement to adult daycare and adult foster care. Again this is one step in the process.

The summer studies are suggested during an annual meeting when any member or liaison partner can recommend a summer study. The study is issue based and has to have something realistic with recommendations. Funding is not always available to implement the suggested recommendations. The summer studies are on the website. The summer study groups consist of volunteers, Commission members and DoA staff. There has been, at times, more than one study occurring simultaneously.

The Commission has a public policy sub-committee which keeps track of what is going on in the County and in Annapolis. The Commission sends many letters and testifies at the County and State level. They also have private meetings with the County Executive and Council members. There is a legislative breakfast in November and delegates from Annapolis are invited. This allows for an exchange of information on both sides.

In order to be successful, there is a need to have vision and broad goals. It is beneficial to give leadership ideas with budget requests. The Commission supports appropriate ideas from Council members. The sub-cabinet which is appointed by the County Executive meets quarterly.

- VIII. Nominations, Louise Lynch** – The Nomination Committee had interviews with four potential candidates. Candidates are Carol Haag of Thurmont, Tom Lawler of Thurmont, Cindy White of Brunswick, and Mary Beachley of Frederick. None of the candidates are senior service providers. The Nomination Committee suggests these candidates be approved. Louise gave a brief overview of all candidates. Elizabeth Chung made a motion that all four be recommended as members for this Commission. Ann Holiday seconded the motion. All were in favor. Louise will forward the information to Joyce Grossnickle so that it can be presented to the BoCC for approval.

Legislative, Louise Lynch – Louise forwarded via email the Legislative wrap-up. The Dept of Aging was not following any specific legislation this session. There was an article in the AARP newsletter which referenced some legislation on elder abuse.

USM, Don Cilla – Don recently attended his first meeting. There were two people from DHMH and they presented new initiatives. Don gave some details regarding the new programs, Community Options Waiver. These programs are focused on allowing people to age safely in their homes. Per Carolyn, these programs were implemented in January of this year. The kinks are still being worked out. More support and guidance is needed from DHMH. Some counties have had to add funds to these programs in order to continue services. In some cases, clients who were originally on the waiver programs are now receiving fewer services.

State CoA, Louise Lynch - The State CoA is still organizing their statewide meeting. The new concept of “Community for a Lifetime” will be the topic of that meeting.

Partners in Care, Ernell Graham – The next meeting will be held on June 9th. Ernell stated that Sarah Ferrall from the Frederick office may be the featured presenter at a local AARP meeting.

Director, Carolyn True –Carolyn distributed a report which indicates a change in revenue streams and the programs effected. There will be workgroups assembled at the state level to investigate possible cost sharing possibilities. This is an opportunity to look for alternative funding.

There will be a Senior Carnival held at the Frederick Senior Center on Friday, May 30th from 9am-2pm. There will be a health and benefit fair at the Emmitsburg Senior Center on June 4th.

IX. Announcements – There will be an Asian Heritage Celebration held in Baker Park on Sunday, May 25th.

Carol Krimm is waiting to hear back from the Chamber of Commerce regarding the business task force.

Louise announced that this will be her last meeting. Her term will end next month, but she will not be able to attend that meeting. She states that she will continue to attend meetings and stay active in issues involving senior citizens.

Public Comment – Commissioner Paul Smith spoke regarding some current issues. He stated that although Montgomery County has a transportation person, he does not believe this is needed in Frederick County. There are subsidized transportation services currently available in here. He states that there has been action (as a result of the Needs Assessment) on part of the current BoCC. Funding has been set aside to assist seniors to age in place. He also made brief comments regarding the Montevue/Citizen issues.

The meeting adjourned at 3:15pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan M. Ramsburg
Recording Secretary

Upcoming Dates:

June 9, 2014, 1pm. Commission on Aging, Frederick Senior Center 1440
Taney Avenue, Frederick, MD.